नोट और बड़े नोट मिलाकर, खासतौर से 500 के और 100 के नोट ज्यादा इस में मिले हैं, सभी को मिलाकर साल का चार करोड़ हुआ है और 1262 लोगों के खिलाफ FIR दायर हुई है।

Proposal for tourism projects in Kerala

*264. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects proposals relating to tourism received from the State Government of Kerala for Central assistance; and

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has received the following project proposals from the State Government of Kerala for grant of Central Financial Assistance during the year 2007-08:

Sl.No.	Name of the project
1	2
1.	Setting up of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition at Kozhikode (Kerala)
2.	Development of Kodungallor Heritage Tourism Circuit
3.	Development of Nila Heritage Tourism Circuit
4.	Development of Integrated Rural Tourism at Village Clappana District Kollam
5.	Development of Integrated Rural Tourism at Village Kayakulam District
6.	Development of Pathiramanal Bio-park
7.	Development of Wayanad under destination scheme
8.	Development of Kerala Kalamandalam as a cultural tourism destination
9.	Development of Bekal as a major tourist destination providing the Bekal-Kasaragod-Goa-Kasaragod live aboard facility
10.	Development of Mangalam Dam as a tourist destination
11.	Development of Kozhikode as a major tourist destination—Sarovaram Wetland Nature Park
12.	Development of Kottakkunnu in Malappuram as a tourist destination
13.	Development of Malampuzha in Palakkad as a tourist destination
14.	Onam festival
15.	Nishagandhi Dance & Music festival
16.	Pooram festivals of Kerala
17.	Thalassery festival
18.	Preparation of Master Plan for development of Wayanad as a major tourism destination
19.	Developing IT promotional tools

1	2
20.	IT project for creation of websites at 8 properties
21.	Development of Eco-tourism programme in Gavi under Kerala Forest Development Corporation
22.	Heritage documentation in South India

Of the above, proposals complete in all respects as per guidelines, were appraised and sanctioned in the current financial year:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount (*Rs. in lakh*)
1.	Development of Kodungalloor heritage Tourism circuit	361.75
2.	Development of Pathiramanal Bio-park	499.61
3.	Destination development of Wayanad	201.72
4.	Development of Mangalam Dam as a tourist destination	461.67
5.	Destination development of Kottakkunnu in Malappuram	440.25
6.	Development of Malampuzha in Palakkad as a tourist destination	482.04
7.	Setting up of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition at Kozhikode (Kerala)	1000.00
	TOTAL	3447.04

During the 10th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned projects worth Rs. 13,809.94 lakh for development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the Government of Kerala has submitted 22 proposals, out of which, the Central Government has sanctioned only 7 proposals. Sir, this is not satisfactory. As we all know, Kerala is a State with large tourism potential. You know, Sir, tourism will give us foreign exchange and it is an employment-generating activity. But there is no effort to prepare a comprehensive plan so that the total tourism potential of the State can be tapped. There is no effort either on the part of the State Government or on the part of the Central Government. And, the State Government is giving only some piecemeal proposals which may or may not be accepted here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government would take initiative in preparing a total comprehensive tourism development plan for the State of Kerala, so that the entire tourism potential of the State can be tapped.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that kerala is one of our very successful stories for growth of tourism and Kerala is one of the States which has got the maximum allocations from the Central financial assistance schemes. It is true that this year we have so far sanctioned seven projects. Some of the fairs and festivals have not been sanctioned because the utilisation certificates, which is a mandatory aspect before they are sanctioned were not submitted as required.

Sir, as far as the question of preparing a comprehensive plan is concerned, I would like to

inform the House that in 2002, a comprehensive Tourism Perspective Plan for 20 years was prepared. Each State was sent the segment which applied to it; and they were asked to recognise and consider their own tourists, cultural and architectural strengths and in consideration with this perspective plan suggest proposals to the Central Government.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the maximum assistance has been given to Kerala. My question is, whether the maximum tourism potential can be tapped there. I want to know whether the assistance is commensurate with the potential available in the country. That was my question. Anyhow, I hope she will recognize it.

Sir, now we have given some proposal for assistance for some festivals, for example, Onam festival. She has already sanctioned that. But there is a very important festival, Thrissur Pooram. There is a very famous temple in Trichur. There is a unique festival called Trichur Pooram. But no assistance is given to that. Like that, Sir, in my district, there is snake boat race which is unique in the world. A lot of tourists come from abroad. But no assistance is given to that. Will the Minister consider giving special assistance to thee special festivals, unique to Kerala?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have alredy recognised Aramula as one of our rural tourism projects because of the mega mirrors made over there. We have already made allocations for infrastructure development and capacity building. Boat races which are ... ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That is for metal mirror. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: It is for Aranmula. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am trying to clarify. ...*(Interruptions)*... You sanctioned for metal mirror. My question is for snake boat race. You have sanctioned for mirror. I am grateful to you for that.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: sir, I am answering that question only. There are several boat races, including the snake boat race, which take place in Kerala. They form a very essential part of our projection campaigns both within the country and outside the country. I am very sorry, for tourism, we would like to give more money to Kerala and to the other States. But the Budget the Tourism Ministry has—and the Finance Minister is sitting here—is so small that I could ...*(Interruptions)*... give the allocations we made to all the different States, which is more than half of our total Budget.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, Kerala is one of the greenest States in this country. मैं जानती हूं कि वहां अलग सरकार है। शायद इस वजह से इसके अपलिफ्टमेंट के लिए गवर्नमेंट टूरिज्म बोर्ड ने इसे प्रमोट नहीं किया है। गोवा के ऊपर इतनी परेशानी आ गई है कि अगर अल्टरनेटिव के लिए लोगों को कोई जगह देनी पड़ेगी तो केरल को प्रमोट करना पड़ेगा। क्या मंत्री जी इस पर ध्यान देंगे?

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: मैं माननीय सदस्या को यह जरूर बताना चाहती हूं कि हम टूरिज्म मंत्रालय सरकार की राजनीति को देखकर नहीं चलाते हैं। मंत्रालय इस उद्देश्य से कार्य करता है कि हम प्रदेश के टूरिज्म और कल्चर के लिए क्या डेवलप कर सकते हैं। मैं औपन चुनौती देना चाहती हूं।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: मुझे?

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी: आपको नहीं, किसी को भी। आपने प्रश्न किया है, एक इल्जाम लगाया है, मैं आपसे कहना चाहती हूं कि यदि आप केरल की मौजूदा सरकार से यह कहलवा देंगी, आप अपनी बात की पुष्टि केरल सरकार से करवा देंगी, तो मैं इस सदन में माफी मांगने के लिए तैयार हूं।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सभापति जी, मैं जवाब देना चाहती हूं कि ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No supplementaries on supplementaries please. *(Interruptions)* No supplementaries on supplementaries. *(Interruptions)* No, Mrs. Bachchan, please.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: मैंने अखबार से जितनी भी सूचनाएं एकत्र की है, वह सारी केरल गवर्नमेंट द्वारा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Please. This is not an occasion for debate. *(Interruptions)* If the Minister has given a reply ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, यह सप्लीमैंट्री प्रश्न है। प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर से क्लैरिफाई करने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amar Singhji, please resist the temptation of interfering. *(Interruptions)* No, please. Shri Vijayaraghavan.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for acknowledging the potential of Kerala. We have submitted 22 proposals out of which seven have already been accepted. Unfortunately, the Government has not accepted the major part and clearance has not yet been given to them. Firstly, the amount that has been sanctioned by the Centre is not sufficient. Would you enhance the allocation? You have given the priority list. There are some other issues also. The festival of Onam, which is a national festival, has not been included in the list. *Nila* is a very important development scheme. So, the amount allocated for it should be enhanced. Also, Ayurvedic tourism and health tourism is an important feature of Kerala. Will you also take steps to promote health tourism in Kerala and increase the total allocation for the State?

श्री अमर सिंह: सभापति जी, इन्होंने पुष्टि कर दी है। माननीया मंत्री जी माफी मांग लें। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Amar Singh. *(Interruptions)* Please, gentlemen.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I can furnish details of the allocation made for the Eighth and Ninth Plans. We sanctioned 103 projects for the Eighth and Ninth Plans and the allocation made was Rs. 42 crore and 75 lakhs. In the Tenth Plan, we sanctioned 61 projects and the allocation was Rs. 138 crores and nine lakhs. Similarly, for 2007-08, so far only six projects have been sanctioned and the allocations made so far amount to Rs. 34 crores 47 lakhs. But I would like to add that Kerala had only one institute of hotel management. We have, in the last two years, sanctioned another institute and the Central Government has provided Rs. 10 crores as direct aid for putting up that institute of hotel management in the current financial year with growing tourism in Kerala, and the Home-stay scheme successfully implemented in Kerala, and with the Home-stay scheme successfully implemented in Kerala, we can also have a training programme going on alongside, which would provide employment to the youth of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thirunavukkarasar.

श्री अमर सिंह: सभापति जी, यह गलत बात है। इन्होंने कहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, इन्होंने कहा है ...(व्यवधान)... इन्होंने सदन का कहा है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not your qustion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would request the hon. Member not to disturb the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your question has been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... Amar Singhji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would request you, as leader of the group, not to interrupt proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, as far as the question is concerned, I have already said ...*(Interruptions)*... as soon as the Government of Kerala send the completion certificates for the last year's fairs and festivals ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, सरकार के साथ भेदभाव हुआ है ...(व्यवधान)... सर, मंत्री जी ने कहा है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interfere. ...*(Interruptions)*... Another supplementary is being asked. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amar Singhji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is totally unwarranted and unnecessary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know if the technology and the technique exist whereby people shouting at each other really understand each other. I think we are wasting the time of the House and we are depriving our colleagues from asking supplementary questions, and no purpose is being served. Please go ahead with you supplementary.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Why has she challenged her? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: She has to apologise to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मैं इनका आदर करता हूं ..(व्यवधान).. वे अपने वचन की रक्षा करें और इस सदन से क्षमा मांगे ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I have already ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मंत्री जी ने कहा है ...(व्यवधान)... यह on record है कि मैं माफी मांगूंगी ...(व्यवधान)... सर, केरल के साथ भेदभाव हो रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... She should not have challenged. ...*(Interruptions)*... She challenged her. ...*(Interruptions)*... She challenged her. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amar Singhji, please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, आप expunge कर दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... इन्होंने चुनौती दी है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री तारिक अनवर: सर, ये गलत आरोप लगाने के लिए माफी मांगें ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead with the supplementary.

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: I want to know the projects and proposals of different States. How many proposals have come from different States and the amount of money different States asked from the Central Government? I also want to know the State-wise allocation. How much money have you given to different States so that we can know which State is improving in tourism? For Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, in particular, how much money has the Central Government allotted?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, even though the qustion by the hon. Member does not pertain to the main question, I have a list with me about the State-wise allocations made in the Tenth Five Year Plan and the number of projects sanctioned in each State. The hon. Member specifically mentioned Tamil Nadu. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, for Tamil Nadu was sanctioned 62 projects and gave Rs. 103.45 crore. For Madhya Pradesh, in the Tenth Five Year, 62 projects were sanctioned and we gave the help of Rs. 97 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Interest Rate on agricultural Loan

†*265. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to charge the rate of interest upto four per cent on the agricultural loan to provide relief to the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the when this demand first came before Government; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government to meet this demand?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In 2006, the National Commission for Farmers (NCF), headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, had recommended in its Third Report to the Government of India (GoI) that keeping in view the decline in the profitability of agriculture and increasing farmers' distress and indebtedness, GoI may consider providing support to the banking system for reducing the rate of interest for crop loans to 4% during the year of Agricultural Renewal. However, in its revised Draft National Policy for Farmers sent along with its Fifth and Final Report, the recommendation is that there should be a reasonable rate of interest on crop loans.

(c) After deregulation of interest rates on loans, banks are free to determine the lending rate of interest taking into account, inter-alia, the cost of funds and the risk element involved. RBI has stipulated that interest rate on loans by Commercial Banks upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and loans upto Rs. 50,000/- should be collateral free.

To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrowers' liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 Lakh on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD for making refinance available at concessional rates to Cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.